

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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A simplified procedure for amending the medical and health data section on death, fetal death and live birth certificates has been established by recently enacted legislation.

It is now much less complicated for the certifying physician or coroner to make an amendment in the medical and health data originally reported on these certificates.

Whenever supplemental information becomes available making it necessary to modify information originally supplied, the certifying physician or coroner may now have the information amended by filing a simple statement to correct the record with the state or local registrar.

The record forms, with appropriate instructions, which are to be used in amending the health medical data sections of these certificates are available at the offices of the state and local registrars.

The Bureau of Occupational Health is conducting a comprehensive study of the effects of heat, noise and dust on the health of heavy equipment operators.

The study is the first of this type ever undertaken in the construction industry and is part of the Health Department's continuing program aimed at the prevention of work-induced disease and disability in California's labor force.

Cooperating in the study are the U.S. Public Health Service, the Operating Engineers Union and a number of private construction contractors.

The survey includes canal, freeway and other construction projects in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

More than 60 legislative acts of public health interest were signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown and went into effect 17 September.

These included extension of the cancer quack law for two years; the establishment of a single statewide hospital and health facilities planning committee; the provision of toilet and handwashing facilities in food crop harvesting fields, and the testing of newborn children to detect as early as possible phenylketonuria and other preventable heritable disorders leading to mental retardation or physical defects.

The department is also charged with the establishment of regional centers for diagnosis counseling and arranging for the care of mentally retarded children. The initial appropriation is \$1,500,000.

A medical care program developed since 1963 at Saugus Rehabilitation Center near Los Angeles shows that the chronic alcoholic from skid row is far from being a hopeless candidate for rehabilitation.

The program has had a 76 per cent success rate with the first group of chronic drunkenness offenders who had voluntarily sought treatment before discharge.

Of 61 released alcoholics who originally agreed to report for treatment at the Los Angeles County Health Department's alcoholism clinic, 54 are still in treatment, are not drinking and have not been rearrested.

We attribute the success of the program to close cooperation of the Saugus Center, the clinic, the sheriff, the Bureau of Public Assistance, the Salvation Army and the department's Division of Alcoholism.